

ISSUE SUMMARY

Jan 21

Lead: Justice (Environment, Public Works, DHW)

Protest at Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border: Truckers and their supporters are promoting anti-vax protests at the provincial border with New Brunswick. The first is scheduled for Jan 23rd at noon and the second is on the 29th, according to posts on social media. Freedom Convoy 2022 is a national protest. Individuals associated with the anti-vax movement locally appear to be helping organize the NS/NS border protest. RCMP and Amherst Police have plans in place to keep order, uphold the Health Protection Act and ensure health and emergency services can get through any blockade. NSH also has contingency plan in place to ensure health care workers and health supplies are not impeded.

Messages:

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- Nova Scotia is in a public health emergency. People have lost their lives. Many Nova Scotians are still in hospital and some are in the ICU.
- Vaccine is key to protecting all of us – it's preventing most of us from severe illness, hospitalization and death.
- People have a right to protest, but there will be zero tolerance of anyone blockading our roads or highways, preventing healthcare or other essential services workers from getting to work, or impacted the movement of goods and services into our province.
- Police will be enforcing the *Health Protection Act* and the *Motor Vehicle Act*. The act of driving slowly to impede or block the reasonable flow of traffic is illegal.
- Truckers have been among the heroes of this pandemic. They were on the road moving essential goods when most of us were being told to stay home. We owe them our thanks and we encourage them to follow the public health measures that have protected us throughout this pandemic.